

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 IO-10 /075 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1817

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2631

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ELTN, WB, GE

SUBJ: BERLIN S-BAHN

REFS: USBERLIN 2311, USBERLIN 1352, USBERLIN 1029,
USBERLIN (POL) MEMCON OCT 17

1. SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ TOLD ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS DEC 23 THAT CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL KUNZE MET "LAST WEEK" (HE THOUGHT ON DEC 15) WITH GDR PROFESSOR SEIFFERT FOR ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON FUTURE OF BERLIN S-BAHN. FOR FIRST TIME, MEETING WAS AT REQUEST OF KUNZE BUT WAS HELD AS USUAL IN WEST BERLIN RESTAURANT OVER LUNCH.

2. SEIFFERT TOLD KUNZE THAT GDR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT HAD COMPLETED STUDY OF S-BAHN FINANCIAL SITUATION FOR HONECKER AND HAD PREDICTED THAT DEFICIT FOR WEST BERLIN OPERATION WOULD RANGE FROM 70 TO 100 MILLION DM FOR CURRENT YEAR. STUDY ALSO CONCLUDED, SEIFFERT SAID, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT EVEN IF THERE WERE SOME RATIONALIZATION, IT WILL

NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REDUCE DEFICIT WITHOUT REDUCING SERVICE. ACCORDING TO SEIFFERT, ALL INTERESTED PARTIES IN GDR GOVERNMENT HAD CONCLUDED THAT ECONOMIC PRESSURE UNDER WHICH S-BAHN WAS OPERATING PRECLUDED ANY SOLUTION OTHER THAN FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION BY WEST BERLIN SENAT.

3. SEIFFERT ALSO DIVULGED TO KUNZE THAT SINCE IT APPEARED THAT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR REICHSBAHN TO NEGOTIATE WITH WEST BERLIN SENAT ON FINANCING OF S-BAHN, GDR HAD THOUGHT IT PRUDENT TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH SOVIETS. HE ADDED THAT HONECKER PLANNED TO DISCUSS MATTER PERSONALLY WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV. SEIFFERT ALSO SAID THAT DISCUSSION THAT GDR OFFICIAL MITDANK HAD WITH SENAT PRESS CHIEF STRUVE (USBERLIN 2311) ON S-BAHN WAS UNAUTHORIZED. NEXT KUNZE-SEIFFERT "UNOFFICIAL" MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN MID-JANUARY BY WHICH TIME SEIFFERT EXPECTED TO KNOW RESULTS OF HONECKER'S DISCUSSION WITH ABRASIMOV.GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRANSPORTATION, AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, S-BAHN, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USBERL02631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750447-0109
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751213/aaaaalcl.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USBERLIN 2311, 76 USBERLIN 1352, 76 USBERLIN 1029
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <24 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BERLIN S-BAHN
TAGS: PGOV, ELTN, WB, GC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006